

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

CYRIL SCHANK



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OPEN FOR RESEARCH



Interview Conducted and Edited by:
Donald B. Seney, California State
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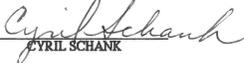
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Statement of Donation

STATEMENT OF DONATION OF ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW OF CYRIL SCHANK

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INTERVIEWER: DR. DONALD B. SENEY

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Editorial Convention

A note on editorial conventions. In the text of these interviews, information in parentheses, (), is actually on the tape. Information in brackets, [], has been added to the tape either by the editor to clarify meaning or at the request of the interviewee in order to correct, enlarge, or clarify the interview as it was originally spoken. Words have sometimes been struck out by editor or interviewee in order to clarify meaning or eliminate repetition. In the case of strikeouts, that material has been printed at 50% density to aid in reading the interviews but assuring that the struckout material is readable.

The transcriber and editor also have removed some extraneous words such as false starts and repetitions without indicating their removal. The meaning of the interview has not been changed by this editing.

While we attempt to conform to most standard academic rules of usage (see *The Chicago Manual of Style*), we do not conform to those standards in this interview for individual's titles which then would only be capitalized in the text when they are specifically used as a title connected to a name, e.g., "Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton" as opposed to "Gale Norton, the secretary of the interior;" or "Commissioner John Keys" as opposed to "the commissioner, who was John Keys at the time." The convention in the Federal government is to capitalize titles always. Likewise formal titles of acts and offices are capitalized but abbreviated usages are not, e.g., Division of

Planning as opposed to "planning;" the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, as opposed to "the 1992 act."

The convention with acronyms is that if they are pronounced as a word then they are treated as if they are a word. If they are spelled out by the speaker then they have a hyphen between each letter. An example is the Agency for International Development's acronym: said as a word, it appears as AID but spelled out it appears as A-I-D; another example is the acronym for State Historic Preservation Officer: SHPO when said as a word, but S-H-P-O when spelled out.

Introduction

In 1988, Reclamation created a History Program. While headquartered in Denver, the History Program was developed as a bureau-wide program.

One component of Reclamation's history program is its oral history activity. The primary objectives of Reclamation's oral history activities are: preservation of historical data not normally available through Reclamation records (supplementing already available data on the whole range of Reclamation's history); making the preserved data available to researchers inside and outside Reclamation.

In the case of the Newlands Project, the senior historian consulted the regional director to design a special research project to take an all around look at one Reclamation project. The regional director suggested the Newlands Project, and the research program occurred between 1994 and signing of the Truckee River Operating Agreement in 2008. Professor Donald B. Seney of the Government Department at California State University, Sacramento (now emeritus and living in South Lake Tahoe, California) undertook this work. The Newlands Project, while a small- to medium-sized Reclamation project, represents a microcosm of issues found throughout Reclamation: water transportation over great distances:

- three Native American groups with sometimes conflicting interests; private entities with competitive and sometimes misunderstood water rights;

- many local governments with growing water needs;
- Fish and Wildlife Service programs competing for water for endangered species in Pyramid Lake and for viability of the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge to the east of Fallon, Nevada;
- and Reclamation's original water user, the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, having to deal with modern competition for some of the water supply that originally flowed to farms and ranches in its community.

Questions, comments, and suggestions may be addressed to:

Andrew H. Gahan
Historian
Environmental Compliance Division (84-53000)
Policy and Programs
Bureau of Reclamation
P. O. Box 25007
Denver, Colorado 80225-0007

For additional information about Reclamation's History Program see:
www.usbr.gov/history

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**Oral History Interview
Cyril Schank**

Seney: Today is August 22, 1994. My name is Donald Seney, and I'm with Cyril Schank at his home in Fallon, Nevada. Good morning, Mr. Schank.

Schank: Good morning, Donald.

Seney: Let me start out by, you were born here in Fallon in 1930. What's your first memory of here?

Growing Up in Fallon

Schank: Actually, I remember back, probably when I was about four years old. Dad had built us a new home and all, and we did live in town first. And, of course, I was shown where we lived and all. Dad was moved here to become the agriculture instructor here at the high school. Mom was a Home Ec[onomics] major and had been Home Ec. teacher in Bunkerville, where they met, and that's where they married.

Seney: Bunkerville is in Utah?

Schank: No, Bunkerville is Nevada, down around Las Vegas area. It's just a little farming community, but it was hot.

Seney: Was your mother a native Nevadan?

Schank: No, they're both native Utahans.

Seney: So *you* start the line of native Nevadan .

Schank: Yeah, I started being the native Nevadan, and all. But Dad had heard about the Newlands Project,¹ and this was a real opportunity to come up here and teach ag[riculture] in the Primary of Nevada when he was offered a contract. I think his contract, if I recollect right, he was offered \$1,200 a year to come up here. It may have been a little higher than that, but not much.

Seney: What year was that?

Schank: That would have been 1929. My sister was born in St. George, Utah, because that was the nearest hospital to Bunkerville. And that's where she was born. But they moved up here in the hot summer of 1929. Dad tells about moving into the valley here—and of course they come to love it too, just like *we* did.

1. Authorized by the Secretary of the Interior March 14, 1903, the Newlands Project was one of the first Reclamation projects. The provides irrigation water from the Truckee and Carson rivers for about 57,000 acres of cropland in the Lahontan Valley near Fallon and bench lands near Fernley in western Nevada. For more information, see Wm. Joe Simonds, "The Newlands Project," Denver: Bureau of Reclamation History Program, 1996, www.usbr.gov/projects/pdf.php?id=142.

But I can recollect mainly when we lived there next to town, on about an acre-and-a-half. And it was water-righted, mind you. It was irrigated. It was just out of the city limits. The house is still there, right across from the museum, a two-story home, a frame home. And Mom was able to raise her flowers and garden, and Dad loved to garden, and we had a corn patch along with it—field corn and all—in that one acre. And we raised chickens and had a cow for milk. So I learned pretty early a little bit about farming, and I learned to love it. In fact, as a kid growing up, when I was in the second grade, I wanted a bicycle real bad, and Dad give me the opportunity to come home at noon and feed the chickens and gather the eggs. If you gathered them at noon—most of the eggs are laid in the morning and then the nest would get a little dirty if you didn't gather them twice a day. I learned soon to take care of eggs and I learned soon to take care of money too, to earn enough to buy me a twenty-six dollar bicycle, which was the cream of the crop then. I earned fifty cents a week by doing that, and I was able to pay off my bike on a kind of a credit deal.

Small Town Memories

Seney: What do you remember about the town in those days?

Schank: In those days Dad knew everybody. Dad knew everybody in town. He couldn't walk down the street that he didn't know and could talk and visit with everybody.

Seney: They all knew you too, right?

Schank: Well, I got to know a lot of the people because of the fact that Dad did what he called "projecting." He went out and visited the ag students and their parents and their projects. And me being a youngster about six years old, I got to go with him quite often on Saturdays and in the summer. Well I can remember pretty near all the old-timers here.

Seney: It would be pretty hard to get into mischief, I'd think.

Schank: Well, it was. And if I did get in mischief, Mom would let Dad know. (laughs) But of course Mom would discipline us a little bit if we needed it. (laughs)

Seney: I guess I mean, everybody in town would *know* you (Schank: Well, yeah.) and so they'd, you know, I mean, everybody's got their eye out, right? I mean, that's part of small-town life.

Schank: That's right.

Seney: Do you remember any incidents where your dad called you in and said, "Cyril, I hear you've been riding that bike a little crazy, here."

Schank: Well, no. I can remember one time I was riding it and had my little brother on there—this was when I was a little bit older. It was on the highway there and I didn't look and a car pretty near hit us. I remember the driver took us home. It scared me about to death.

Starting the Family Farm

My brother Dean, he was born in 1939, so he was the last one, and he was the deciding factor of Dad purchasing the farm that we're on over here now. Not this particular area, but across the highway from here.

Seney: How was he the deciding factor?

Schank: Well, the third boy, he said, "Well, with three boys, we've got to have a farm to raise them on, a big one, instead of just that acre-and-a-half."

Seney: Well he must have know a good deal about farming, as the agriculture teacher.

Schank: Well, he did. He grew up in Providence, Utah, and he grew up—his mother was widowed when

he was two years old, so he grew up a young man, with his sister who's two years younger than him. And he learned to hoe sugar beets. He learned the sugar beet trade very well.

Seney: They were gone, though, from here by the time you began to farm sugar beets, weren't they? Are they still being farmed here?

Schank: Oh, there were sugar beets here, at times; there had been sugar beets introduced here a couple of different times. There was a sugar factory here that I well remember as a kid. It didn't operate, but I remember where it was. It was up on Rattlesnake Hill, just virtually on the corner of our property. There *is* still some remains of it up there. In fact, the railroad serviced it.

Seney: Have you ever grown sugar beets?

Dairying

Schank: I never have per se. My neighbor here grew them; Dad said, "Stay clear of them." He says, "They're nothing but hard work." We had a dairy. We dairied until 1975.

Seney: Is that when the law changed on the dairies?

Schank: No, we contracted Bang's in our dairy herd—Bang's disease, brucellosis—and that's a

disease that does give undulant fever in the milk, and they test your milk for it. We had been declared a Bang's-free area at that time. And my son, Ernie, had just come home from college and had worked with me two years in the dairy—we were milking about 130 cows at the time—and we got this Bang's disease in the herd. The government comes in and tests the herd and all, blood tests them. (Seney: That was the State of Nevada?) Yeah, well, the State of Nevada and the federal government. It's kind of a federal thing too, between the two of them. And if your cows have Bang's, they put a little old "B" brand on their cheek and give you a fifty-dollar subsidy and they go to market. And well, my wife told me—right now it was 1976 this happened, so I missed it one year—but at that time we did lose the whole herd. When fifty percent goes, they say it's better just to disperse the whole herd.

Seney: I can't imagine that fifty dollars was much help, was it?

Schank: Well, it did help because the cattle went for beef.

Seney: So you didn't lose a great deal?

Schank: Well, we lost. I mean, we lost our dairy.

Seney: Well, you've got your sheds and your buildings and all that.

Schank: Yeah, had the sheds and buildings and we'd even put a Harvester storage tank, silo, in, that still sits up there. But we did utilize it some for beef and all. We did, Ernie and I, kind of had a conference and we thought we'd try two years without dairying and that would give time for the corrals and all to clean up, so the germ would be gone from the area. And after two years we re-evaluated and we enjoyed it so much *not* milking and *not* getting up at three-thirty in the morning—which I had virtually all my married life—to milk cows, you know (chuckles), which was a good life and a good training for *my* boys as well as me. (Laughter)

Seney: Well, I was going to ask you about that. I mean, did you miss the cattle, working with cattle?

Working Beef Cattle

Schank: Well, we went into beef cattle immediately. We kind of went into a feed lot operation and fattened steers out. We did that for, oh, I think about four or five years, and then the beef market took a tumble and it kind of hurt us financially a little when that tumbled and all. But we've hung on and kept a-going and now we do run, still, some stock cows and calves.

Seney: What does that mean?

Schank: That means you raise the mother cows with baby calves. And then, what we do, we raise these baby calves and then purchase some more of them when they're about weaning time, when they're about a year old, and we'll feed-lot maybe about—what we call warm-up cattle. We put them in the corral then in the winter for about six months and feed them hay and raise them up to about six, seven hundred pounds for the feed lots. And they go either to the Midwest feed lots or to California. And we'll usually raise a hundred, hundred-and-fifty of them, and feeder hay that isn't marketable—when I say it isn't marketable, it *is*, but it's marketable at a very cheap price, and by feeding it we get the same as premium hay.

Seney: I've heard it described as kind of a management tool, for the alfalfa.

Schank: It's a management tool, yes, for the alfalfa and all. Of course, a lot of this alfalfa, it's probably been explained, in some of the years has gone to Japan and to the Orient and all. It's recompressed or else put into cubes and shipped over there. But the hay's very high-quality-type hay that's grown here in the valley.

Seney: Can you give me a sense of what it's like to grow hay? What kind of problems you run into, what sort of surprises and difficulties and maybe what some of the, kind of the joys of raising hay are.

Managing Hay Production

Schank: Well, the biggest problem that I find with the alfalfa is a bug that gets in it called weevil. And these weevil, we had some real good sprays and what we called a dormant spray that we were able to use back in the 50s and 60s, and we'd put that on in February when the weather just got warm. Then all of a sudden it started showing up in milk—at least so they said—and so they cut us off from using that type. And they've gone to another type of spray, parathion and various types, that directly kills the bugs, but we have to do after we see the damage on the hay. So it's a little tougher, and it's quite expensive. This year, just for spraying, was \$4,000, and it used to cost maybe \$100 to take care of the little job—but of course a lot of this is relative to time and all. The costs have escalated, and of course we use aerial spraying.

Seney: So you don't spray, yourself.

Schank: No, no, no. Ernie is a licensed sprayer. We do spray weeds in, say, our grain crops. And he is

a licensed sprayer. We have to do that because, just with the laws the way they are anymore, to handle any herbicides or pesticides or any of that, it's got to be a licensed guy. So Ernie has the education, he's gone to school on it. Then he delegates me to run it. (laughter) No, not really.

Seney: I know, I know. (laughter) This must be one of the areas that's really changed over the years, then, because I suppose you used to be able to go down to the feed store or wherever you got this stuff and pick it up and come out and spray.

Schank: Well that's very true, and actually, to a certain extent, it's one of the farm boys that grew up and does the spraying here in the valley and he chose that line of occupation, where his brother runs a big farm and his dad's kind of retired, like I hope to be pretty soon. (laughter) So I don't know. That's the Frey boys. Jerry Frey, he's the one that does most of the aerial spraying; I mean he owns it. He has, of course, a pilot that does it. He did it himself a lot too.

Seney: What's your reaction to this, as a farmer? Do you think this is kind of excessive, or does it make sense to you when you think about it, the regulations on the herbicides and the pesticides and what not?

Schank: Well, I'm certain that they're needed. Actually, I don't like to use them anymore than I absolutely have to. I'd rather see the ladybugs take care the weevil.

Seney: Do you use ladybugs?

Schank: Well, at times, yes. In fact, there's several years that I haven't had to spray because the ladybug population was such that they handled it. But you have the economics, you have to weigh it out and all.

Seney: Sure. Do you ever get ladybugs and seed the fields?

Schank: Oh, we have. But it was kind of a game, too, with some of these people; they'd sell you ladybugs and then never deliver them.

Seney: Oh, really?

Schank: Yeah. It's kind of scams. Some of the people would promise to get them and bring them in, and it was mostly just somebody that dreamt up a good scheme. (chuckles)

Seney: Because I expect that that might be useful if you could get them.

Schank: If you could get them. They're tough to get.

They get them at high altitudes some places, at times. But it takes quite a few of them, and there is, I think, another wasp or something that eats them too. We like to use the natural predators, but when you can see you're losing a ton or two of hay per acre, you better go ahead and spray them.

Seney: Is this a good year, by the way, for hay? How is it?

Schank: It's an excellent year for hay except for the fact that we don't have enough water.

Water Uses for the Project

Seney: Well you're getting fifty-seven percent this year.

Schank: We're getting fifty-seven. It should have been about eighty-five, which I'm sure has been explained to you. But with the federal government, they, I don't know, they think it's a higher use. Agriculture, they're going to shove us off to where we're going to be a Third World country, depending on other nations to supply our food and all.

Seney: Explain to me why do you think it should have been at eighty-five or eighty percent allocation.

Schank: Because of the fact that Lahontan [Reservoir] holds a lot of storage up there, but the federal government messes around with it, and they have endangered species to look after.

Seney: So we're thinking of the *cui-ui* up at Pyramid Lake?

Schank: Oh, the *cui-ui*, and there's other things, the wildlife area. The wildlife came in here in the 50s and just wanted to use the drainage water.

Seney: So you're talking about Stillwater Marshes?

Schank: Stillwater Marshes.² I can remember when the federal boys came in then and they pleaded to take that over. They used to call it the *mismanagement* area. I shouldn't, that's what the farmers know it as, the *mismanagement*. Because they had the Carson Lake and the Carson Lake always produced all the ducks out there and that was taken care of by the runoff from the project. They called it wastewater, then, and it wasn't really wastewater. It was

2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge is located in the Lahontan Valley of north-central Nevada, near the community of Fallon, sixty miles east of Reno. This area has been designated a site of international importance by the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network because of the hundreds of thousands of shorebirds, such as Long-billed dowitcher, Black-necked stilt, and American avocet passing through during migration." www.fws.gov/refuge/Stillwater/about.html.

really water that supplied them. Now they say the farmers dried them up. We didn't dry them up, it was the government that dried them up.

Seney: Well, in those days a lot more water used to run through the project, didn't it, than it does now?

Water Issues

Schank: Well they had power water, they had a power plant up there, winter power and water that fed and went out there, [in] the canals. I used to ice-skate on the canals in the winter. And on the ponds. They dried up their lakes, their reservoirs. There's a big reservoir right back of our farm up there and they've dried up three-fourths of it in the name of saving water and all, in the name of the OCAP [Operating Criteria and Procedures]. The government can do this, but a *farmer* do that and we'd be in jail!

Seney: Well I guess the local farmers think of the—what's the name of the lake back here you're talking about?

Schank: "S" Line Reservoir. We call it the Rattlesnake Reservoir because Rattlesnake Hill right here.

Seney: Well, I think a lot of you fellows would say that was good wildlife habitat over there.

Schank: Oh, beautiful! I wish I'd taken pictures of all the birds and things that were growing on there. As a kid growing up, I can remember ducks being so thick on there. One of the local veterinarians used to love to duck hunt—I was just a little kid then—and he told me one time of getting nineteen birds in one shot. (laughter)

Seney: That's quite a shot.

Schank: I mean, he sluiced, I mean, they were just rising up off the water.

Seney: Well, let me go back to what's going on in alfalfa. You're getting fifty-seven percent, but your production's still pretty good.

Adjusting to Less Water

Schank: The production's pretty good, but it's the reason we're leaving land idle—or else we were having to *purchase* water in order to keep the good hay that we have going. We've got fields that are idle that could just as well be growing hay. I haven't been able to seed any new alfalfa this fall.

Seney: Because you've got to have a late water to seed?

Schank: Yeah, I need late water to seed alfalfa and I need enough of it too. So we elected not to seed

any this fall, but I've got fields that are idle, been sitting idle.

Seney: Can you take the water that's allocated to those idle fields and put it on your other fields?

Schank: We can within our own ranch, on a short water year.

Seney: Is that what you've been doing?

Influence of Senator Harry Reid

Schank: Yes, oh, definitely. We have to manage to our best to get by through these rough years, and the government has their way and comes in and takes over, say the T-C-I-D [Truckee-Carson Irrigation District], like they say they want to do. I mean, this is Senator [Harry] Reid³ and all that wants to reauthorize the project, and he has a personal dislike for T-C-I-D, and has, and it just stands clear back from the Legislature here in Nevada. I didn't realize this until I get

3. Senator Harry Reid served the state of Nevada in the U.S. Senate from 1987 to 2017. Senator Reid also participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Harry Reid,. Oral History Interview, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation Oral History Interview conducted by Donald B. Seney, edited by Donald B. Seney and further edited and desktop published by Brit Allan Storey, senior historian, Bureau of Reclamation, 2013, www.usbr.gov/history/orallhist.html.

snooping around to find out why he does what he does and why things are going as they are. Because he was, and *is*, my personal friend and all, but he never tells me these things, he's kind of quiet. The people here have never supported him in an election. I did support him the year *I* was running for office and he was running for his seat on the Senate. Then he won and I won and I, of course, figured he would consult a little bit with me as Head of the Commission here about Churchill County, but absolutely no consultation on his part on what is needed. Of course, we as commissioners, feel that anyone serving in Congress ought to have been a county commissioner or else a city councilman—just for the fact so they would know how those governments operate. We operate on balanced budgets. We know what's going on here. We know what's best for the community.

Seney: Let me stop you, because you've piqued my interest when you said you snooped around and found out why it was he's not happy with T-C-I-D. What did you find?

Schank: Well, what I found was, over in the Nevada Legislature, when he was lieutenant governor, and of course the lieutenant governor chairs the Senate, I believe it is, in the State Legislature.

And evidently, well, Carl Dodge⁴ was the big gung-ho here with the Water Project—a Republican against a Democrat—and Harry just never took a liking to anyone here. In order for the T-C-I-D—I believe it's authorized under state law . . .

Seney: Well it operates under state law.

Schank: Yeah, under state law. I don't understand all the intricacies of that. I didn't get into all them, and even though my dad was a legislator—Dad served in the legislature for a two-year term over there—but in those days we had good legislation; today we can't have good legislation. I can tell you why on that, too.

The Nevada Legislature

Seney: Please do.

Schank: The reason is, the Nevada Legislature was patterned originally after the U.S., with one senator per county, and then the assemblymen

4. Nevada State Senator Carl Dodge participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Senator Carl Dodge, *Oral History Interview*, Transcript of a tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation oral history interview, conducted by Donald B. Seney, Bureau of Reclamation, August 5, 1994, at his home in Fallon, Nevada, edited by Donald B. Seney, www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html.

were decided on population. So we had compromise, we had *good* legislation. The rural counties had a little bit of say, not too much. But today we're at the mercy of the populace, which is Las Vegas and Reno.

Seney: Because the Senate is now [elected based on population].

Schank: Because they reapportioned, because they thought they were breaking the law in some way, and they reapportioned—I believe it was in the late 60s there, when all this come about. However, I think if they'd have bowed their neck—I think there is one or two that still operate under this, and they've got good legislation. The reason being, though, is the masses or the urban areas do not have the complete say. One man, one vote is not the best in running a government. And the United States hasn't changed, thank goodness, although we elect two urban senators now from Nevada and they join the ranks of the eastern liberals. And that's why we're in the mess we're in here in Nevada. I mean, it boils down to that.

And where Senator Reid didn't receive votes from Churchill County when he run, and T-C-I-D supported the Republican people that were running against him, he got beat in some tight elections. This is very interesting: he was flat

broke just a few years ago. Now he's one of the richest ones. So it tells me what happened: we get the best people that money can buy, and I mean, the one that financed the—it's no dark secret, I don't think, that it's a Boston conglomerate that owns Sierra Pacific, and Sierra Pacific, which is a private-owned power company, they have lobbyists in Washington year around. I mean, they have them hired that live there. So how can we compete? I mean, we don't stand a chance, so we've got to do it the way we're doing it.

Seney: Well, you know, in reading about the project, and when I first started on this, I didn't realize how complicated this whole question was, and how many competing interests there were. One of them you mentioned, Sierra Pacific Power, has been *very* successful, it seems to me, in terms of getting what they want.

Competing Interests

Schank: Well, they teamed with the Indian tribe and you might as well say they teamed against us.
(Laughs) Senator Reid and Senator Laxault.

Seney: But I guess when we talk about Senator Reid, when he was beat by Senator [Paul] Laxault in 1974, are you saying that the local people here

went with Laxault?

Schank: They went with Laxault from here, so that didn't bring any friends. He decided when he got in there he was going to settle this water thing, water wars, and get this, what the Republicans hadn't been able to do.

Seney: Well Laxault tried to settle it, didn't he?

Schank: Yes, and he had it settled, and of course the Indians broke trust. I mean, it was all settled and I don't know, I've read some papers on that, too. And when Mr.[Robert S.] Pelcyger⁵ stepped in with Joe Ely.⁶

Seney: The Pyramid Lake Paiute Indians.

5. Robert S. Pelcyger participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Robert (Bob) S. Pelcyger, *Oral History Interviews*, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation Oral History Interviews conducted by Professor Donald B. Seney for the Bureau of Reclamation, in 1995 and 2006, in Reno, Nevada, and Boulder, Colorado, 1995 interviews edited by Donald B. Seney and all interviews further edited by Brit Allan Storey, senior historian of the Bureau of Reclamation, 2013, www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html.

6. Joseph (Joe) H. Ely participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Joseph (Joe) H. Ely, *Oral History Interview*, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation oral history interview conducted by Donald B. Seney, edited by Donald B. Seney and further edited and desktop published by Brit Allan Storey, senior historian, Bureau of Reclamation, 2011, www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html.

Schank: Yeah, and they get their lawyers paid for (chuckles) and paid by tax money. (laughs)

Seney: Well, I think the local people here in the district, like yourself, kind of object to that.

Destroying the Project

Schank: Oh, man, I'll tell you! It makes me heartsick to go around here. We were created by the government, a government project, and to see what they want to destroy now—and I mean, they want to do away with us. And I mean with their E-I-S [environmental impact statement]—that was just completed—wants to do away with at least seventy-five percent of us, buy out our water rights. You can't operate a project with twenty-five percent of the land left, farmland. [You might] just as well fold up and go. But I think their thing has been to beat us down to get us so depressed that we're going to sell out. And I think the money that was awarded the Indian tribes was to be used for this purpose. And when they found they couldn't do it, without a big fight and without paying the going price—why isn't the water worth as much *here* as it is in Reno? Sierra Pacific has a price that they pay for that water; it's the same water.

I don't know if you heard about the little

deal that went on here. There was a leasing organization formed here. And the first thing we knew, the Sherman Antitrust Act, we'd been turned [in]to the Justice Department, this organization of farmers, for price fixing. (laughs)

Seney: Is this the Newlands Water Protection Association?

Schank: No, no, this was Truckee-Carson Leasing Authority, T-C-L-A. Charlie Frey⁷ is the head of it. I don't know if you've had a chance to visit with him but he could certainly tell you. And we know where it came from: Mr.[Fred] Disheroon [of the Department of Justice]⁸ was down here and decided that the price of water rights were going to go up and they weren't going to get their little gold map that they wanted, of getting rid of us.

7. Charles Frey, Jr. participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Charles Frey, Jr., *Oral History Interview*, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation Oral History Interview conducted by Donald B. Seney, edited by Donald B. Seney and desktop published by Andrew H. Gahan, historian, Bureau of Reclamation, 2012, www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html.

8. Fred Disheroon participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Fred Disheroon, *Oral History Interviews*, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation Oral History Interviews conducted by Donald B. Seney, edited by Donald B. Seney and desktop published by Brit Allan Storey, senior historian, Bureau of Reclamation, 2010, www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html.

Seney: So it was an attempt by the farmers to organize themselves.

Farmers Organizing

Schank: Well, just for leasing purposes rather than *buying* the water rights. There's short years and there's long years. The farmer has always been one that will share with those people that need. If they need the water, why not compensate us for that water? We could sit idle with a certain portion of our farms each year, and take care of them so it doesn't become a dust bowl here. We've worked with [the] Soil Conservation District here since the 50s or earlier. In fact, that ditch was the first ditch, you see out here, poured by a farmer as a slip-form. A California concern come up and I worked with the Soil Conservation, just as a young man. We put that in, in 1955 or 1954—along in there—and that's been in constant use since, in order to save water, in order to better utilize [the water]. We've land-leveled, we've done all the things that the Soil Conservation District—which is a true protective thing for our lands and things here.

Seney: You support them? You like them?

Schank: Oh, definitely, definitely. I've been a member

of them since, and most all the farmers are, [they] have farm plans for rotation. And this is what really is upsetting. I mean, when the government comes and says we're doing all these things, wasting water, we're running herbicides or pesticides and doing all that.

The Government Reneged

Seney: Well you know, as I talk to people here in the valley, the farmers and those around T-C-I-D, I get the feeling that you all feel pretty strongly; the government made a deal with you when this project began, when people like your dad came here, (Schank: Yes) an abundant and assured water, (Schank: Yes) and you kind of feel they've gone back on the deal.

Schank: Oh, definitely, definitely. The first thing was the power water that was in here. And of course the Endangered Species Act come along and a sharp lawyer was able to nab onto that. I don't want to knock that, because they've really played it to the hilt. But you can't tell me, though, that when there's millions of fish in that lake, *cui-ui*, that they're not recovered. But they don't want them to be recovered, they don't want them *ever* to be recovered—they want Derby

Dam⁹ out. Mr.Pelcyger and Mr.Disheroon sat in a meeting with me here, over a year-and-a-half ago along with Mr.[William] Bettenberg¹⁰ and *told* me that, or told the group that. Of course, I come unglued. (laughs)

END SIDE 1, TAPE 1. AUGUST 22, 1994.

BEGIN SIDE 2, TAPE 1. AUGUST 22, 1994.

Seney: We're back in business now. You know, I take it you feel pretty strongly that the people like Mr.Bettenberg, Mr.Disheroon and Mr.Pelcyger, the Indian attorney, (Schank: Uh-huh) that they're really *up* to something here.

Schank: And Tom Strekal,¹¹ you'd just as well add him

9. Authorized for construction in 1903, Derby Dam is a diversion dam on the Truckee River, located between Reno and Fernley in Storey and Washoe counties in Nevada was completed in 1905. It diverts water that would otherwise feed Pyramid Lake into the Carson River watershed for irrigation use. The dam was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 as the "Derby Diversion Dam."

10. William Bettenberg participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, William Bettenberg, *Oral History Interview*, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation Oral History Interview conducted by Donald B. Seney, edited by Donald B. Seney and desktop published by Brit Allan Storey, senior historian, Bureau of Reclamation, 2009, www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html.

11. Thomas A. Strekal participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Thomas A. Strekal, *Oral History Interview*, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation Oral

(continued...)

to the list too.

Seney: And Tom Strekal being?

Schank: He's being the one that's heading the recovery team for the *cui-ui*.

The Rues of *Cui-ui* Recovery

Seney: Okay. He's over, then, at [Pyramid Lake].

Schank: Yeah, because I read a thing the other day in the paper, they're going to name all these *other* fish now because they need them all! (chuckles)
And I think they feel they're losing their grasp on the *cui-ui*.

Seney: What do you think they're really up to here, if it's not legitimate *cui-ui* recovery or endangered species recovery?

Schank: Well, the whole thing boils down to water for Reno and growth. *Money*, money, money.
(laughs)

Seney: In your mind that's what's really at work here?

11. (...continued)
History Interview conducted by Donald B. Seney, edited by Donald B. Seney and desktop published by Andrew H. Gahan, historian, Bureau of Reclamation, 2019, www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html.

Water Flows to Money

Schank: At work here is money. I mean, it's the one that has the money, gets the water.

Seney: Now we're talking, really, about Sierra Pacific Power and Westpac Utilities?

Schank: The Sierra Pacific Power and Westpac Utilities, I'd just as well name them. Actually, Washoe County was supposed to have taken over the water and all and that's been a little power struggle there, but, I mean, they don't go to the source. That's what I say, they've done the same thing to the Washoe County Commissioners as they have to us here. I mean, Washoe County was working on water plans and they still are, and they come down to a hearing on re-authorizing our project and tell them their Honey Lake is dead. (laughs) And the federal government is going to kill it, because they don't want anything to jeopardize the Negotiated Settlement.

Seney: Well, Honey Lake, of course, is north of Reno.

Schank: Now, I'm not saying whether it's good or bad, but the commission were doing what they thought was right in studying it and doing the E-I-S and all.

Seney: This is the Washoe County?

Schank: Yeah, Washoe County, so they would have other sources [of water] and would not wipe us out down here.

Seney: But your feeling is that Honey Lake was killed because it would have taken pressure off of the Newlands Project.

Schank: Yeah, it would have taken off of the Negotiated Settlement.

Seney: You know, the most water-starved area, probably, in the state is going to be Las Vegas, or *is* Las Vegas. Is any of this water, in your nightmares, headed toward Las Vegas?

Finding New Water Sources

Schank: Well, I don't know. It's quite a ways there, but pipelines run it. And this is one thing that's disturbed me with the whole thing, the government has spent so much money to try to dismantle us now. Why don't they spend it on a cause of creating *new* water sources, or possibly piping water from the Columbia River and putting in power plants? The Reclamation Bureau could be doing these things, but it isn't the thing to do today. I mean, they want to go back and even knock Boulder Dam out, I

understand, Hoover Dam, whatever they want to call it. But still I think, Vegas, you go down there and it's a swamp. And the reason I say that, they've put in these artificial lakes, they put in all that landscaping, golf courses, and they've got all kinds of water out of the river there, out of the Colorado River, and I think Senator Reid says one thing for them down there and another thing for us up here. But don't quote me, I mean, I'm going to get in trouble here.
(laughter)

Seney: No, you won't. No, you won't. Well, you know, one of the things we want to get is the sense of how people feel about this, and that's going to really come across here.

Schank: No, Senator Reid always, he said he was the devil to Churchill County, and it is right on recorded tape and in his testimony. Of course, we've read it and played it a lot of times and, I mean, he said it, we didn't. (Laughs)

Seney: Well, I mean, I guess some of the things he says is there's not enough economic advantage to putting the water here. Now, your son, Ernie, has written a paper for the Nevada Policy Institute, which I've read, and he quotes in there a University of Nevada study which shows that this is actually an *export* economy, thanks to the

water. You're creating [wealth here].

An Export Economy

Schank: Actually, I look at this valley as being very unique. It's one of these things that they're going to be feeling awful bad when they destroy it. It's the only real irrigation project. It's the first one authorized under the Reclamation Act of 1902. And I mean, if they wipe it out, it's the only real good farm area in the State of Nevada. I've watched it go, I've watched their production, over just my lifetime, at least, and many times triple in every crop. We've become more efficient. Of course, agriculture, we're not a union—I mean, farmers don't organize enough. To get back to that antitrust deal, just as a young man out of high school—I didn't go on to college, all my brothers and sister did. I had the opportunity, but I wanted to farm, and so Dad said, "Well you take over the farm," and so I've never regretted doing it. I've enjoyed it.

But we were the first Grade "A" farmer dairy after World War II that went in. We built our barn in 1945, started it, and started selling Grade "A" milk, what we called Grade "A." There was eighty farmers in this area followed, and of course by the time all eighty, it got to be about the 50s, got into production, there was an over-production of Grade "A" milk. And that

deflates the price. So farmers got talking over the fence (laughs) and that's where we got involved in the Sherman Antitrust Act then. Just talking and how we could get the price [we needed] and all. So what we had to do was organize properly, a cooperative, and we did. The Newlands Dairymen were formed, which I, and my dad, was quite instrumental, and the Extension Service worked right closely with the farmers in forming what we know as the Newlands Dairy Organization. And that one consolidated into the Nevada Associated Dairymen, with all the Washoe County dairymen. Washoe County, mind you, had a lot of dairies in those days, as well as the Yerington area had some, and Minden—some of them have come in over the years. And now this same little co-op that was Associated Nevada, I don't know what they call themselves now, but they're with the Northern California Dairymen, one of the biggest co-ops in the nation. And so, I mean, they talk about a couple of farmers (chuckles) talking over the fence, prices, and nail them, but yet you can form a co-op and something (chuckles) and you can do it legally.

Seney: That's okay, right. What makes a Class "A" dairy?

Dairy Classes

Schank: That was building to standards and all. They had to have concrete walls and they had to be floors concreted then, and there was certain standards to meet in producing the milk. Then the milk was cooled over an aerator and the milk run over a cooler affair. And it was picked up daily at a certain temperature and bottled at the plants daily. So I've kind of grown up with that business in mind, because we did dairy for about thirty-five, forty years.

Seney: There is something known as a Class "B" dairy also, isn't there?

Schank: Yes, yes.

Seney: What's the difference?

Schank: The difference was, there was no real standards there. You could milk in a wooden building or out in the open or any other thing; but these had to be milked in certain areas with certain holding corrals, and of course, the standards have become more stringent over the years. And what's interesting to me today: I don't know how many dairies there are here now, but there's probably twenty-five or thirty and they probably produce ten times the milk. And this has become a key dairy area here.

- Seney: Well as I drive around I see some of the dairies have signs on them that indicate that they produce California Gold products.
- Schank: That's the co-op they belong to. It's called that. They all have that name on. But there is hardly any Grade "B" dairies here. That milk could go to [a] cheese factory, although, these dairies here, as they overproduce, it goes to the cheese factory. Of course, they get in with all the government programs, I guess, if there is any involved. (laughter)
- Seney: You know, as long as you're talking about agriculture production, let me go back to ask you a little more about alfalfa. How many tons are you going to get off an acre this year, do you think?

Alfalfa Production

- Schank: Oh, I'd imagine probably about four tons this year. It should have been about six or seven, if we'd had the water for it.
- Seney: So if you'd had a good year it'd be six or seven tons?
- Schank: Yes, if we had had full water duty and all. But I mean, it gets more and more all the time.

Seney: Well, what did you do back in the 50s? How much would you produce, say in the 50s?

Schank: Oh, I think about two-and-a-half to three ton was the average then.

Seney: In a good water year?

Schank: In a good water year, but we have better varieties now. They've been bred up. A lot of them have even been named after a community. The university named one "Lahontan" which was one of the top producers, and even today is. And then another named "Washoe" after Washoe County, and that's still one that we use, is a *very* good producer. It is not a hybrid but it was bred there at the University of Nevada by Dr. Oliver Smith. He'd come out and meet the farmers and work right with them. This was the good old days when the university worked with us. They still work with us, but in different ways; they worked with production agriculture. Now they work a little different angle. The university is working now with Nevada Gold with preserving the water, and they have to work with all the urban areas. The 4-H kids are not farm kids anymore, they're city kids as well as farm kids. I guess they felt that they were leaving somebody out. (laughs)

Seney: How's the price of hay this year?

- Schank: The price of hay is good. The price of hay, to be up with the price of automobiles or tractors or anything else, ought to be \$200 a ton.
- Seney: What are you going to get for it this year?
- Schank: A hundred. We get around a hundred for top quality hay, and we'll survive on it, but we find we're giving two or three times acreage, where a forty and eighty acre took care of a person in the earlier days, and twenty dairy cows did. Now it takes three or four hundred to even begin to think about it. I mean, the farmer—two percent of the nation are involved in production agriculture. So you can see our political clout anymore. No political clout. No nothing. Other nations protect their agriculture; ours—these tree-huggers and all the rest, I call them—they just don't think we're needed, they don't think we're needed. They can import it from Mexico and they can let the Mexican people raise it and ship it in here. And you watch, as soon as they do that, of course, the Americans are going down there and operating (laughs) and they'll be selling to our government.

Farmer's Economy

- Seney: I know farmers don't like to talk about money,

so I'm not going to ask you what your bank balance is going to look like at the end of year, but are you going to be okay this year, are you going to make a little rather than go further in debt this year?

Schank: Oh, Ernie and I, we cut back. We have to balance our budgets. A farmer will typically spend everything he makes on new equipment or equipment and stuff. I don't buy new equipment, I have to buy used, but it's getting harder to get used equipment. It used to be they offered you incentives to buy new equipment. There was, in your income tax you could write off certain amounts, an investment credit.

Seney: You can't do that now?

Schank: Oh, no. The government thinks us farmers have been—they think we're getting wealthy, and we haven't. Just eke out a living is all we've ever tried to do.

Seney: But you'll be okay this year? You won't go deeper in debt? I mean, obviously you're going to have a new Cadillacs out here, but you should be okay?

Schank: Well, I hope not. I hope not. I drive a 1982 Olds that I bought in 1985 for \$6,000. It had 40,000 [miles] on it, it's got 160,000 on it right

now and I'm going to run it until it's done. I mean, I don't *have* to have a new car every year, I don't *have* to have a new tractor every year. We ought to be turning more of this over, it would help the economy, but the government has chosen to really—and the farmers that are in trouble are the ones that have gone out. And when we got in trouble, [the] P-C-A was lending money.

Seney: P-C-A is the . . .

Schank: P-C-A is the farm credit bank, Production Credit Association, and the Federal Land Bank, they got real liberal with their money. I used to, back in the 50s, we never borrowed money. We run our dairy, got the cream check each month, but I was never making any gains. I finally ended up going into borrowing in order to purchase more cows so I could keep up. They always said, "Well produce a little less, because we're overproducing anyway," but it doesn't work that way.

Seney: That's right.

Schank: I mean, you've got to keep up a little bit and you've got to consolidate, but ever since I've started borrowing, it's been tough and all and it's tough to make ends meet. I mean, we have to

balance our budgets, we have to be *real* careful. But the farm prices escalated so much, the farm that Dad paid \$4,000 for back in 1939 now had become worth quite a bit of money, so they say, "Borrow off of it." That's what the government tells you, "Just borrow off of it and go into debt," and that's where a lot of them lost their farms.

Seney: That's right. Especially the Midwestern farmers.

Schank: The Midwestern, even right here in this valley, the same thing. There's some of them in trouble now, a lot of them, and they're the ones that the Fish and Wildlife and the Nature Conservancy—this is another sore spot with me. I shouldn't tell you this. (laughs)

The Nature Conservancy

Seney: No, go right ahead.

Schank: The Nature Conservancy, to me, if they were doing what they ought to be doing, they get praised for all they do. What do they do? They come out and buy us out and then sell at a profit to the government. Why don't they farm those farms themselves, and see how it is to farm, and then do their little preserving that they're going to do on their own places, rather than, like, in

our valley, if they do what they do, they'll take sixty-five percent of our tax roll and how will our county even operate? They'll put our county out of business.

Seney: I want to talk about that in a minute. Let me ask you, has the average farm gotten bigger over the years since you've been here?

Farm Sizes Over Time

Schank: Oh, definitely, definitely. Of course, used to be, they figured forty acres would take care of a family, raising chickens and specializing. When we moved onto our farm here—we moved in 1941, Dad bought it in '39. We moved out here on this farm in 1941 in kind of an old house. We'd left that nice house that we'd built down near town. It was kind of a comedown, but he promised Mom he'd build her a new home, so he did get right on it and got it built. It was kind of hard to do it during wartime, but he jumped right in. There was enough materials and we did get us a fairly nice home where Ernie is living now. Of course it's been remodeled and all. I've probably lost my train of thought. (laughs) I don't know where we were.

Seney: We were talking about how big farms had to be.

Schank: Well, farms then was an eighty-acre farm, is what it was. It was 160, but eighty was wasteland and the other eighty was farmland. There was eighty good, but it was all little fields and stuff; as you see now, great big long checks, half-mile long, we're able to really take care of easily. But we moved out there and Mom had a garden there just the same. We grew turkeys, mind you, and they made the ranch payments. We had a small dairy at the time. Maybe, when we got up to ten cows, we got a milk machine, but we had to milk by hand (laughter) until we got those number of cows. And then we had chickens, and we also had a garden, and they had a raspberry patch. My sister earned her college money by picking raspberries, \$3.00 a crate. And they're just darn near that a little cup now. But they had a whole crate and that was \$3.00 then and she earned her money to go on to college. And I mean, us kids—you mention Depression years, those were, actually in the 30s I didn't know it was tough times. My folks never let us know. I do know that they always fed what we called "the bums" when they'd come by with their little packs, and Mom always had a woodpile that they went and chopped and then they got a meal for what they did. (laughs) But I've watched, on the farms, mainly horses when we started, a tractor here and there. And I've watched that all come about.

Seney: If I wanted to come out today and buy a farm and support a family, how big a farm should I buy?

Modern Farms Require Larger Plots

Schank: That'd be pretty tough. You'd have to either inherit it, pretty near, or marry it. (laughter) The ones that I've always called "hobby" farms, when the doctors and lawyers and rich people come and buy a farm. They're a hobby farm to me, not what they call a hobby farm. They're going to redefine it and take the water away from those poor people that have—I mean, the government plans on doing this. It's all mapped out.

Seney: But I'm just talking, if say, if the land were available and I had the money, how many acres should I have now to make it?

Schank: Oh, I'd say at least three hundred acres, at least, to make it. Ernie and I do it on 600, but I mean, it supports the two families.

Seney: Right. Well he told me when I talked to him, that it required more land to [now].

Schank: Oh, definitely, definitely. Because, I mean, the turkey business has all gone great big, the dairy

business has all gone great big. You could take twenty acres and put a big dairy on it, though, and then go ahead and purchase all your feeds. But, I mean, you could do this specialized. I know one that does real well that has a worm farm here. Of course, they farm as many acres as we do, but they sideline. And they don't speak too much about that because it's—the farmer's been typically kind of quiet-mouthed. And this is the thing, they'd used old figures when they were figuring on what the farmers are doing, but it even surprised the county here when we found out that it's 80 million plus that the farmers do directly around here. And I mean, it's the biggest part of our economy, is agriculture, and the reason it has been, it's because they turn over. It's an industry that has so many related things. And there's no way that a little duck hunting or something or these bird-watchers are *ever* going to pay that money.

Seney: How do you view the expansion of the naval base, and maybe the introduction of the federal prison?

The Naval Base

Schank: Well, I've been here, I've been here since the Navy came. I was a youngster during World War II and the planes, of course, flew right over our place there and I got to know a lot of the

pilots. Some of them would come to church and all and we got to meet them through the years. And the reason they put the Navy base here and not in some other valley is because there was a community here, a good community. They located off to one area. They did buy up a few real good farms. They purchased them and it hurt them when they were told that they could no longer have the water for those farms, that it was going to go to Pyramid Lake. I mean, virtually, that's what the senator tells them and what the senator tells them, he means.

Seney: This is Reid again, Senator Reid?

Schank: Yeah, well, it is. I know some stories there. Politics isn't the cleanest thing in the world. I didn't realize that.

Seney: I want to hear those stories.

Schank: Well, we had a hearing down here, on the water, and Captain Rackowitz [phonetic spelling] was out there at the base at the time. He came to the hearing, and of course he was a farm boy. I've met him, I meet all the captains as they come.

Seney: These being base commanders?

Schank: Base commanders, the one that's the

commanding officer out at the base. Anyway, he came into one of these hearings that we had—it was in the firehouse there—and stated that they needed that water to sustain the agriculture around on those farms—they'd purchased it, just like anyone else. Sure it was the U.S. government. I used to farm the ground out there. One year in the 50s I took the contract and farmed that land. It has been kind of let go. I kind of holler at them, and always have, because they haven't really taken the best care of the ground.

Seney: So they would lease it to you and you could farm it.

Schank: They would lease it to farmers, but they did get the Soil Conservation involved. What they're interested in is dust control around the runways. And of course, Senator Reid having come from Las Vegas—and there isn't farms around Nellis [Air Force Base]—and he compares Nellis and, well, "Why can the Air Force and the Navy," and I mean, "Why are they different?" But I mean, there is quite a concern. They probably have more paved runways and stuff around Nellis and they have ten times more land than this Navy has for their ranges. They're operating on World War II ranges, and they're using supersonic now. And that's why they want to withdraw more land. They never

extended their boundaries, too much, per se, around in buying up agricultural land. They don't like to see homes built right up around, and this is one thing we run into a problem with. When Nature Conservancy came in, they'd buy it out and then pull the water rights off and sell it and then let the land go to the developer. And the developers were going to put homes and they put them out there, which isn't poor land, to build and put a home on. You can't get a good well out there and the mosquitos are terrible. (laughs)

Seney: You mean all the Nature Conservancy wants are the water rights?

Schank: That's all they really want.

Seney: So they'll buy up the land with the water rights and then divert the water rights.

Schank: Of course they found that it was a problem—I will give them credit for that. They found there was a real problem with this and they are working and they were working with the Senator on resolving this.

Navy Water Rights

Seney: You didn't get to the story that I think you were

going to tell me here about the Navy and the Navy's water rights and politics.

Schank: Oh, yes. To get back to Mr. Rackowitz: he come into that and testified in that hearing that they needed the water there.

Seney: Now what kind of a hearing was this, Mr. Schank? Just an open government hearing?

Schank: It was a government hearing, and it was one that was sponsored—probably in attendance was Mr. Wayne Mehl, who was the author of Senator Reid's wonderful Negotiated Settlement.

Seney: Public Law 108-618?¹²

12.

Public Law 101-618 became law on November 16, 1990. The Law contains two acts: The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Settlement Act and the Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act.

The main topics of the legislation are:

- Fallon-Paiute Tribal Settlement Act
 - Interstate Allocation of water of the Truckee and Carson rivers.
 - Negotiations of a new Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA).
 - Water rights purchase program is authorized for the Lahontan Valley wetlands, with the intent of sustaining an average of about 25,000 acres of wetlands.
 - Recovery program is to be developed for the Pyramid Lake cui-ui and Lahontan cutthroat trout.
 - The Newlands Project is re-authorized to serve additional
- (continued...)

Schank: Well it wasn't that at the time. It was Senate Bill Number 15-something. I don't know. I testified on it and went back to Washington and all. Anyway, he come in and testified to that fact. Well, first thing I know, poor Mr. Rackowitz had bombs that had fallen outside of the ranges, and actually he was called on the carpet. Articles that appeared in the Reno paper, local paper, chewed Mr. Rackowitz out and Senator Reid was chewing him out and all, and he would have lost his job and been busted, had it not been for the Navy League here and the people's supporting him. But he wouldn't dare ever say anything more about water. I'm sure it was all started over water, but, I mean, they jumped the ball to something else.

Seney: The message was clear.

Schank: The message was clear.

Seney: Now this was very recent. This wasn't all that

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12. (...continued)
purposes, including recreation, fish and wildlife, and municipal water supply for Churchill and Lyon counties. A project efficiency study is required.
- Contingencies are placed on the effective date of the legislation and various parties to the settlement are required to dismiss specified litigation.

Source: [http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lboa/public law 101-618.html](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lboa/public%20law%20101-618.html)
(Accessed December 2011).

long ago, was it?

Schank: No, it was during my tenure in office here.

Seney: Yes, because I remember these stories about the bombs falling outside the [ranges].

Involvement with the Reno Papers

Schank: Oh, I probably, I may have a whole file on it in here if you're interested in it. (laughs) I used to keep it, but I don't know, I got so fed up with it. The newspapers have vowed, the Reno papers vowed to support the Negotiated Settlement and to take away our water for their area. I mean, it's no dark secret. I went up and met with their editorial board, and they have elected not to put out our side of the story.

Seney: You went that far, to go up and meet and call and ask them for a meeting?

Schank: Oh, well we always do. I went with Lyman

McConnell¹³ and Ted de Braga¹⁴ and them. It was soon after I was on the commission, it's probably been six, seven years ago, eight years ago, because our Board of County Commissioners had no farmers on when I went on, and I was the first one farming that had been on for a while. Our County Commission used to always be run by farmers until—farmers get so busy we worry more about whether we're going to make a living or not rather than all this political aspect. We think our elected people take care of it and it's turned out that [they don't]. (Laughs)

Seney: What made you decide to run for the County Board of Commissioners?

Running for County Commissioner

13. Lyman McConnell participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Lyman McConnell, *Oral History Interviews*, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation Oral History Interview conducted by Donald B. Seney, edited by Donald B. Seney and desktop published by Andrew H. Gahan, historian, Bureau of Reclamation, 2019, www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html.

14. Ted de Braga participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Ted de Braga. *Oral History Interviews*, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation Oral History Interviews conducted by Donald B. Seney, Bureau of Reclamation, August 5 and 11, 1994, in Fallon, Nevada, edited by Donald B. Seney, www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html.

Schank: Well that's quite a story too. Oh, I guess it could come out. John Hanathon [phonetic spelling] was Chairman of the Board. He was number two man in command there at Kennemetals [phonetic spelling], which is one of the largest employers here in the county. It's a mining process that they do here, Kennemetals is. [It] has 130-140, maybe more, employees now. They've been doing nothing but growing. John grew up on a farm. He was tutored by my dad in school, and a real good friend of mine. He come to me one day and he said, "Cyril, we've got to get you to run for the commission." I didn't really want to (laughter), but I guess—I'd been taking care of Mom; she had had Alzheimer's and she had just passed away, and so I didn't have that responsibility anymore, and I knew I'd probably have the time. But he says, "Things are in bad shape here, water-wise and all. We need some agriculture representation on the board." The woman that was in there was the former base commander's wife, and I had no qualms or anything, you know, anything, that she had done a bad job. She was doing a good job, I'm sure, but she had beat one of my good friends out by twenty-five votes, Skip Cann [phonetic spelling], who was a farmer and run Creamland Dairy, and she had beat him by twenty-five votes to get in there. And I thought, "What the heck, I'll run." So John talked me in. I'm a Democrat.

Seney: Well, you're a Mormon Democrat.

Schank: Yeah, a Mormon Democrat. (laughs)

Seney: Your son told me the story about this.

Schank: In church (laughter) and people come out and say they'd never voted for a Democrat in their life for the Senate and they didn't know I could be a Mormon and be a Democrat! (laughter) They were going to vote for me, they said. Whether they did or not, I don't know. I only won by forty-four votes.

Seney: Now do you run from districts here?

Schank: We're district, but we're elected at-large and the whole county elects us.

Seney: But the gentleman who came to you, the Chairman at that time of the Board, said, "Listen, we need a farmer on here.

Schank: Yeah, he said they needed to get a farmer on there. And John was Chairman of the Board at the time, and first thing I knew, I was in as chairman and John had had heart by-pass surgery and he was given the top job.

END SIDE 2, TAPE 1. AUGUST 22, 1994.

BEGIN SIDE 1, TAPE 2. AUGUST 22, 1994.

Seney: Today is August 22, 1994. My name is Donald Seney and I'm talking to Mr. Cyril Schank in his home in Fallon, Nevada. You know the tape just ran out a little bit as you were saying that you get on the board and you're the chairman, right away, of the board?

Schank: It didn't take long, within a year I was chairman, because I got vice chairman the second year I was on there, and then with John being ill, I had to take over.

Becoming a Democrat

Seney: Well let me ask you a little bit about the campaign. Becoming a Democrat

Schank: Okay, I'll get back a little on that campaigning and all. Actually the Democrats gave me \$500.

Seney: Now do you run as a Democrat, it's a partisan office?

Schank: Actually it's a partisan office. Why it is, I'll never know, because it shouldn't be.

Seney: So you run as a Democrat.

Schank: Well, actually I didn't put it on my signs.

(laughter) Because in a Republican county, which is two-thirds Republicans and one-third Democrats. It used to wasn't that way; it used to be pretty evenly divided. But I don't know, it was one of those things I probably shouldn't even admit, I was christened a Democrat by Grant Sawyer, Governor Grant Sawyer's father who delivered me. I was christened a Democrat when I was born. (laughter) But when I got out of high school and old enough to register I registered Republican; I liked Eisenhower. (laughter) I went to a few of the meetings, I had a good friend of mine, Royal Crook, who was a strong Republican and he'd take me to the Republican meetings. Well, I got in there and saw how politics worked and I didn't like it, really. I didn't like the way they did. In fact I showed up at a Republican precinct meeting out to one of the homes of my neighbor, and he said that's the first time one had ever come. (laughter) I thought the precinct meetings that people went to. But, I mean, they just would be precinct leaders and I mean, they appointed themselves. Of course, I did get onto the Central Committee or whatever and went in, but the Republicans were governed by kind of a hard-nosed bunch, and I didn't care much for them. I soon kind of faded away from them.

And then, I shouldn't say, Nixon did the

things he did and I went in and changed to Democrat. And my dad got me going to—because the Democrats were about dead. I mean, and I got in and become the treasurer, I was appointed treasurer. Harold Chisolm was elected chairman, he says, "I'm going to appoint Cyril Schank treasurer." He knew I had financial abilities and all. The treasurer handed me the books—they were in debt (laughter)—and run over and registered Republican. (laughter) And I talked to her about that (laughter)—she's a good friend of mine.

We started with absolutely no funds in there, but we got going with the Jefferson-Jackson dinner. I've kind of been one to do barbecues, I do deep-pit barbecues, and we put on some fund-raisers, and we got the Democrats going. That's when I met Senator Reid, when he come down with [Governor Mike] O'Callahan, and my dad always worked with the guys and all that. Anyway, it made some people here pretty happy when I did change back to Democrat and get active. (laughter) But we raised thousands of dollars. We always had a fund of ten, fifteen, twenty thousand in there and we could support candidates and help them along the way. And they gave me \$500 then when I run. But I'd worked hard for them.

Seney: Well everybody in the community knows you,

knew your dad, of course, and knew your name.

Running for Office

Schank: Well, they knew my dad, but the community had changed a lot. And I knew I'd take the rural areas, so I didn't spend much time [there]. They said, well you need to contact every door and pump it. But what I did, I spent evenings in town and I hit most of the doors in town. And anyway, it was kind of interesting. With that \$500 I got a few signs and put around, and a card that I handed out. I wasn't going to spend any of my own money, I didn't think it was worth it (laughter) to get elected to a job like that. (laughs) But I had, I think twenty-five other dollars by a farmer in the community that said, "I support you on that." Well, I think he probably maybe had some ideas too. He was doing a little land developing. (laughter) But I don't know.

Seney: He wanted a friend on the board, did he?

Schank: Well, no, I shouldn't say that. He's a good friend. My sister gave me \$100.00; she lived in Utah at the time. She'd come from Oregon, her and her husband, when the tree-huggers there shut them down. Her husband's a county agent and he had to transfer to Utah to complete his

retirement out with the government. They're back in Oregon again now. But anyway, my campaign went door-to-door. I didn't do any radio advertising, no television, none of that kind of stuff. Even though it was available, I didn't have that kind of money to put in. I talked to other county commissioners and they spend four or five times what they make in a year, on getting elected, and I couldn't believe it. Right in counties in here, Douglas County and other counties, they were spending up to fifty, sixty thousand to get a job on the County Commission; I thought, a thankless job like that. (laughter) But I didn't want to be bought out by somebody. And as I say, I was down sitting there as they counted the votes and I was trailing most all the time. The last girl—they used to vote out in some of the other areas—they're not centralized like they are today. They're a little longer getting them in and they run them through an automatic card counter of some sort. You know what kind. They poked holes in them and would count them, and I think it turned out the last precinct put me over. I had a feeling I was going to win, because I knew the precincts. The city ones, I'd lose just a little bit on each one of them. Melva, like I said, I never could say anything bad about her; she's a nice lady.

Seney: What was her name?

Schank: Melva Aldridge [phonetic spelling]. In fact, I saw her a few years ago, and she had remarried and was quite happy. She felt real bad that I had beat her, I understood.

Seney: Oh, sure. Nobody likes to lose.

Schank: No. But after, she felt like she had never had this other chance, because I always visited her. We were on programs together. You know, you go and talk, and well, I would never say anything against her because I didn't have anything that I wanted to say against her, other than that I would work with the agriculture community, you know, and all.

Local Media Support

Seney: What about the local newspaper, did they endorse you?

Schank: No, no, Ann didn't, and I laugh with Ann about this all the time. Ann Pershing [phonetic spelling]. She's the editor of the local newspaper. Actually, I think she's turned it over to another young lady, but she's still the voice. And she didn't endorse me. She's told me it was a hard decision. I said, "Well, you know, when you endorse people, a lot of times it's the kiss of death." (laughter) Because, there was two

papers in here—actually the one paper had just bought the other one out about election time. And I knew the editor of the other paper *real* well and he would do no endorsing. His thing was to present the candidates and let the people intelligently pick them out.

Seney: Well, in a small town you make enemies sometimes if you do that sort of thing.

Schank: Yeah, that's what he told me. But he had already moved and sold the paper out, so there was the one paper. And I wasn't endorsed by the paper, and I tell Ann, I say—because we're real good friends, the press has been real good friends, with me as a commissioner.

Seney: Did they endorse you the second time, when you ran for reelection?

Schank: Well, I had no competition the second time.

Seney: Now you've been on the board for eight years now?

Schank: Eight years. I'll be completing eight years come the first of January.

Seney: Are you up for reelection?

Upcoming Election

- Schank: No, I chose not to. I told them two terms when I ran and that would be it, and I'd do my best in the two [terms]. There's four of them running for my seat now.
- Seney: And more power to them, huh?
- Schank: More power to them. There is some good candidates there.
- Seney: Are you going to endorse anyone?
- Schank: No, I'm not, because there's a good Republican running that a very good friend of mine, and there's a good Democrat that's a very good friend of mine running. And I told them I'd support both of them and do my best to help any out in any way I could, and I think either one will do. There is a couple of others that I would not endorse. I probably shouldn't say, one's a guy from New York who has moved here, is with the police force, in the city police force which, if he's elected commissioner, I think he'd have to resign his job if he was elected, because conflict with the D-A [District Attorney] and all. We set the D-A's budget and we do all that, I mean, and work with them, and so even though the city police is another thing than our

sheriff's department, they still work with our attorneys. (laughs)

Seney: Someone from New York City?

Schank: Yeah. He's a young guy from New York City. I was interested when he came out with his platform: He'd fight for the kids and have programs, school programs and this sort of thing. But we don't run the schools, I'll tell you that, as commissioners, and they have their own and we don't want to. They have their own budget and all. We run the county government and we run the phone company. You probably don't know this, we have the only county-owned phone company in the nation.

Seney: I didn't know that.

County-Owned Phone Company

Schank: And we've had a lot of work that we've done with it. Mr. Carter [phonetic spelling], one of the commissioners, as soon as he came on board I saw that he was appointed as the chairman of that part of it, of the commission.

Seney: How does it come about that it's a county-owned phone company?

Schank: Oh, that's a real story in itself. There's tapes

done on it and all, that the Bell Company has done on it. They celebrated their hundredth anniversary, I think it was, about four years ago and they did a real commemorative. They did a tape recording, videotapes and all. And there's a lot of history behind that, of how we became a phone company. I wouldn't want to relate it. I think you want to talk to the horse's mouth on that. But the thing is, like any county project like that, the phone company kind of went along with the good-old-boy thing, but it's grew into a company that employs over a hundred employees. There are as many as the county, and they were, typically the commissioners were over them, but yet they kind of were an entity unto themselves, with their own wages and all.

Seney: Do they make money for the county?

Schank: They do now! (laughter) They do now.

Seney: The way you say that makes me think you might have had something to do with that.

Schank: Well, I kind of think that there's been a little change in the management policy of the phone company.

Seney: Tighten things up a little?

Schank: Tighten things up a little in the management and let them know they're a part of the county, and they're being very cooperative now. And they did organize, the people did, the employees have organized.

Seney: Into a union, you mean?

Schank: Into a union. And this was kind of interesting: this was prior to, well it was about the time that I went on the commission that they organized. And we'd hired Jim Carter, he was a professional negotiator, had been for the schools, had worked on both sides, he had worked both for management and for the employees. I don't know how he'd got into the positions, but he did that kind of as a sideline. So, as commissioners—we know when we're not smart enough to do things—we hired him as our professional negotiator to negotiate the first contract with the phone company employees. Of course, they're allowed to do this and all within the law. And I mean, it has been alright. We can't see anything wrong with it. I mean, it's professional, it's made their company completely a professional company now and all that.

Seney: Maybe advantages in the long run.

Schank: In the long run, I think it has, because they can't

strike under the laws of the State of Nevada, but they can do other things. It took a long time to hammer out that first contract. Then Jim, he decides to run for the Board of Commissioners. (laughter) And he only won by, I think, twenty or thirty votes.

Seney: So you put him in charge of the phone company?

Schank: And he's been in charge of the phone company and he has been real great. When he's in charge, actually, we as commissioners are the governing board.

Seney: Well, you assign him the primary responsibility.

County's Hospital Issues

Schank: But he has the primary responsibility. Not only that, we had the hospital dumped back on us. St. Mary's, from Reno, had been operating our hospital, and here they show up with all their T-V cameras out of Reno, saying they're not making money on the hospital here in Fallon, losing over a million a year, and we're going to have to take it back over or pay them off.

Seney: The county had a contract with them to run it?

Schank: Yeah. Well, they were going to build a new hospital and do all these things. And Jim being a professional negotiator, thank goodness, and that, we just sat and let them holler and talk a little, because all we had to do was step in and take it over the day they walked out, with *no* cost. In fact, we could have sued them for some of the their accounts. We didn't, we left on good terms with St. Mary's.

But this is another story there. We knew we weren't smart enough. The employees wanted to take that over, and we didn't think the employees and the doctors are the ones to take a hospital over. We were smart enough to know that. So we looked for the best consultants that we can find in this, and we come across a group known as Lutheran Health Systems in the hospital business, and we found that they were the most successful operators of rural hospitals in the United States of America. And they come in, and we invited this head man from there—I should remember his name, but it slips me right now—but he came in and sized the situation up and worked with us on it. We put out for bids. We have to, as a county, to take our hospital over. So we talked with St. Mary's and held them in here long enough until everything was in place, that that hospital would not have to close its doors. It's hard to ever open one. I know what might come after [that].

Seney: I'll bet it is.

Schank: And anyway, this Lutheran Health got the bid—there was others come in and bid on it. Of course, St. Mary's, in the meantime, had tried to sell the hospital and nobody would buy it. Well, they had told us how much it was losing. Who wants to buy something that's losing that much money? But St. Mary's, we knew what they were doing: they run the big hospital in Reno and they were using us as a band-aid station and siphoning all the people and sending them to Reno for their health care. And, I mean, it soon catches up with them. They weren't delivering many babies, if any, hardly here, when they'd always delivered babies and this sort of thing.

Seney: But they'd end up in Reno.

Schank: Yeah, they'd end up in Reno, you see. I'm sure we were making them money. But anyway, to make a long story short there, this Lutheran Health come in and they turned that hospital around here in town now, in just a few years—I think it's probably been about six years now that they've had it. And next month they will be breaking ground on a new \$20 million hospital, all with their own funds, on our property. It will be outside of town, they're right out next to town. It will be annexed to the city. And they

said they don't know how anyone didn't buy this, they wanted to buy it then. But that's why they're buying the new hospital.

Seney: Well that's great for the county.

Schank: You won't read anything about this in the Reno paper, about the success story of this hospital here because we're syphoning from Reno now! (laughter) And we deliver over four hundred babies a year, four or five hundred babies.

Seney: And that can't all be local.

Schank: No, no, they're coming in from all over. And, as it turns out, I don't know how many doctors are on the staff—Jim Carter could tell you—there's probably forty-five or something. We don't hurt for doctors here in Fallon. All other rural communities, this is their crown hospital that they're putting in now too. We've been back and seen some of their new ones—Jim Carter has been back to Fargo, North Dakota, their headquarters—but this is going to be their crown jewel hospital, here in Fallon. I mean, as a rural hospital, it will be the main trauma center and all the rest. We have the largest heliport now, we can land a Navy helicopter or Care Flight right there at the hospital. We have completely turned the old hospital around, and it shines in there, you can't believe how, and they've made

money. And they take care of our indigent load, a lot of it, and it's just been a complete success story. It's something that I've seen happen in my term of office. I mean it's been a community effort, though.

We did put on the tax roll an override to support the hospital, and it's been used for the ambulance service. We're going to ask the people to continue doing this because it keeps the people involved, it's a sunset tax on it and it goes out, they can vote it out any time. And it will survive without it, but it's a community effort. It's not too many dollars, but the ambulances services typically are hard to make them pay. But they were turned over two or three broken-down ambulances; we now have top ambulances, we were able, through a grant, to get one.

What they did, they formed a non-profit organization to run it. And people had always, typically before, had got to vote for the ones that were on that board on the ballot. But we formed it on a non-profit basis. Hospitals have to operate somewhat in secret to come up with their pricing and their strategies they're using. Anyone in the community can join by plunking down a hundred bucks and they can become a voting member and work their hearts out. And

we've got a board headed by Howard Henning [phonetic spelling], who runs Fallon Ford, and if anyone wants to something successful, it's a top auto dealer—well auto mall I should call it. But I mean, he's the one that heads that board, and I mean he's seen this thing turned around. And there's people on that board that are interested, because these ones that want to do all the hollering, all they've got to do is plunk their hundred dollars down and get elected to the board. (Laughter)

Seney: As long as we're talking about votes, I want to change the subject just slightly. I understand, you know, there's been talk of a federal prison complex here, and you all on the County Board of Commissioners put that issue on the ballot as kind of an advisory (Schank: Yes) if the voters wanted. Tell me a little about that.

Proposed Federal Prison

Schank: Well, I can tell you the whole story on it, because it doesn't, the whole story doesn't get out. You know, Paul Harvey tells "the rest of the story." I was in visiting with the county manager—of course, we use a county-manager type of government. I'm a part-time commissioner. I'm not expected to spend full time. You could, as a county commission job, but he makes the big bucks and all, so to speak,

and as commissioners, when I went on the board it was \$11,000 a year.

Seney: Is that what you made when you went on the board?

Schank: Eleven-five. I didn't even know what it paid. I mean I was too dumb to ask. I'd known one of my friends had been on it earned \$100 a month, the last I had heard, and I thought, well, they got compensated a little bit for their time and efforts. And of course to me it was a big help. They ought to know what we live on when we farm! But anyway, to get back to this. . .

Seney: The prison issue.

Schank: The prison issue. B-J Selinder [the Churchill County Manager]¹⁵ said that he'd received a call from a guy by the name of David Dorworth [phonetic spelling] from Washington and they were interested in looking at our area for a federal prison. He had just turned them off, but I guess he called another time or two and sent

15. Bjorn Selinder participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Selinder, Bjorn. *Oral History Interview*, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation Oral History Interview conducted by Donald B. Seney, edited by Donald B. Seney and desktop published by Andrew H. Gahan, historian, Bureau of Reclamation, 2019, www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html.

some tapes showing the federal prison system and a little about it and on selling the federal prison thing.

Seney: Why would they look at Fallon? Did you ever find out what brought Fallon to their attention?

Schank: Well, yes. They looked at Reno. They want to be close to a federal court. The federal government wants one out on the West Coast, they've got plenty of them back east. There's, I think, seventy-some federal prisons in operation. Most people don't even know where they are. And they still don't. They don't even know how they operate and all. But anyway, B-J sent those tapes home and had me look at them, and the other commissioners, I'm sure he sent home the tapes. He had said that Reno had turned them down. They'd rather build new casinos and hire those low-cost employees for four-and-a-half an hour.

Well, now, prison employees, a prison of the size that they'd eventually like to place [here], would hire, I think it was 450 employees at an average price of \$32,000 a year. Now, economically that helps an area, and so, well, we thought we would go ahead and study it a little bit. So we invited David Dorworth in.

Seney: He's from the Bureau of Prisons?

- Schank: He's the Bureau of Prisons. He talked when he came—but before we went very far with it, we'd already sent two of the commissioners to visit anyplace they wanted, unbeknownst to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. I was so busy with farming and chairing the commission I took their word on what they saw and what they reported. They'd give a written report. I think Mr. Carter went to Sheridan, Oregon, but he'd wrote up a real nice report on it and he went there not telling the Federal Bureau of Prisons. They wanted to take us to any of them that we wanted and, you know, show us around. But we'd rather not do it that way, because we don't want to take their word.
- Seney: Sure, sure. You might not get the right picture the way you want.
- Schank: Because we might not get the right picture. He was a Rotary Club member, so he went to Rotary Club, and of course he had been a school principal or in the school administration and a teacher, and so he kind of just nosed around a couple of days and talked to people and found out. And he come out back—and then he was taken through and shown the prison and all. But he, like I say, he did it unbeknownst, because we didn't want it to be said we were paid by the prisons and courted by them. And he wrote his

report up.

And then the other commissioner went to Colorado to one of the towns, selected one there where they have all kinds of prisons in this particular town in Colorado that [County Commissioner] Mr. Reagan [phonetic spelling] went to. And he come back with the report, too, on what went on there. And most of them have no adverse effects. They aren't operated like state prisons and they're completely different, a different type. The people [families of prisoners] do not follow the federal prison[ers]; very seldom [do they] go to the town where their mate or some family member is, that's in federal prison. The federal prison has a board there, if the family moves in and would cause any problem to the community, in any way, they're [the prisoner] immediately moved, flown out to another prison clear across the United States. And we checked their welfare impacts and all, and of course we found that they don't, that low-cost housing and stuff that goes into the area is what causes more welfare problems than this. And during the construction phases you'll have construction workers that move in that will be some problem, which any time, in the construction phase of the base or anything else, they do.

But anyway, he came and answered

[questions]. We had a complete open meeting which was at the community center, a couple of hundred [people], and it reminded me of the one we held when the hospital [question came up]. It was full, people hollering at us as commissioners.

Seney: People didn't want it or did want it?

Schank: Well some did and some didn't, but the bulk of them come out that it wasn't all that bad. And Mr.Dorworth told the prison story to them. And anyway, we ended up appointing a task force here and of course the ones who are against it now say that we hand-picked them. Well, maybe we did, to a certain extent. But we picked people that were interested in it and we thought would study it out, and they come out with a report about that thick.

Seney: About two inches thick?

Schank: Yeah, about two inches thick, that reported. There was a few negatives, but the bulk of them were positives. Anyway, about that time that the report comes out, then a committee forms against it, which in pretty near every community where a prison's ever settled, they've always had a group that comes forward and is against it. Although Mr. Carter and them, when they

visited these towns tried to look up the old committees and they were hard to find because most of them were pretty pleased with what had taken place.

Seney: But you still put this on the ballot.

Schank: It was put on the ballot because of the group coming in and wanting it on. And of course, I stated that to me, if the people don't want it here, Mr. Dorworth has always said that they do not locate where they're not wanted. And of course they didn't ever want it to go to a vote. They'd rather it's just done with the county commissioners, because we're elected to basically look into these things. Most people trust us, some people don't though on something like that. And some of these people that are so against it are my good friends (laughter), and they're so set against that I can't even talk to them on it. I mean, they're so sure that it's nothing but adverse effects. It will change the complexion of the community, but I've kind of taken the attitude that what the majority of the people here want, if they vote for it—even if it's voted to approve them coming in, it's no sign they'll *come* in. They have to run an E-I-S. And of course if they vote not to come in, it's not a sign that they couldn't put it here if they wanted to, because in the federal government, as I was told one time by Mr. Disheroon, they can do

anything they *want* to do! (laughs)

Seney: But politically it's important enough here you want to make sure the people have a voice in it anyhow.

Schank: Well that's the way I've always felt, that the people should have the voice on it, and if they say "no" to it coming in, but if the majority say "yes" and if things look desirable and they [will] come in.

END SIDE 1, TAPE 2. AUGUST 22, 1994.

BEGIN SIDE 2, TAPE 2. AUGUST 22, 1994.

Seney: Let's get back, because you said something before I turned the tape over and that was about Senator Reid, he wanted it in Ely, you say, or down at the Nellis?

Reid's Interest in the Federal Prison

Schank: Down at Nellis Air Force [Base]. In fact, Jim Carter—I didn't work this close with this. Like I say, the other commissioners, I let them work on this thing. But Mr. Carter has played politics a little longer than I have, even though he hasn't been in public office as long as I have. He knew that if a federal prison were to ever come here we'd have to have Senator Reid's support,

and there was one way that we'd get his support, would be to, well, maybe it was the other two commissioners, the contractors out of Reno, they have a title. They're union up there, Associated Nevada Contractors, out of Reno. We got their support on it before we ever went to Senator Reid.

Seney: And Sierra Pacific Power.

Schank: And Sierra Pacific Power. We knew if we had their's that the senator would follow because, like I say, I told you some stories before (laughs), you get the best money can buy. But we knew by employing their support, because they're very supportive of economic development here in this area, [it would help us get the prison].

Seney: Sierra Pacific Power, because they want to sell power.

Schank: And the contractors know good and well that they will be lots of bids on the area and lots of work to be done. So this was done prior to contacting Senator Reid, and I'm sure Mr. Carter contacted Senator Reid by phone and talked to him a little. And of course he was told, well, he favored it vehemently, for number one, to replace with Yucca Mountain, the jobs being lost with the atomic, you know, closing

down there with them not testing. The test site closing, so many out of work and all, that he was looking at that for Vegas.

Seney: Would you see this, the putting the prison here, as a kind of a payoff or something or other for Newlands?

Schank: It actually had nothing to do with the water, other than the fact that I'm sure the other commissioner, not being agriculture and all, said we're going to have to have something in here other than agriculture to help support the economy here.

Seney: "And if you intend to take this project away from us, we need something else."

The Role of Agriculture

Schank: Well, no, it wasn't said in that way. I may have looked at it different than other commissioners. I looked at it that our congressional delegation understands people and votes, and the only way we're ever going to get their attention is to have more people in here. There's room in here for the agriculture, to leave the agriculture in here, have the prison in here, have the people in here fighting for the water. If you noticed, we have been organized now. The entire community

found that it isn't [just] the farmer's battle.

Seney: You're referring to the Lahontan Valley Environmental Alliance?

Schank: The environmental alliance and all, which is a government agency; the five counties have organized.

Seney: But it goes well beyond T-C-I-D and the farmers.

Schank: It goes well beyond. It goes from all the counties are organized here, that we want a say in what happens to this area. We don't want the federal government any more than they ought to be in here dictating. We ought to be directing our own course of action.

Seney: Tell me a little bit about how the county commissioners, I use the term "rub up against," Newlands Project. And I don't know if that quite suggests the relationship between the two.

County Commissions' Relationship to the Project

Schank: The thing of it is we're a hundred percent supportive of the Newlands Project, of the T-C-I-D. They're a government board elected by people just like we are.

Seney: They're a little different because they're elected at this point still by the water users. They're not elected by everybody.

Schank: They're elected by the water users, true enough, but they are elected by the ones [they serve], and they can expand their board easy enough. But it's just like anything, like the easterners want to take over the ranges here in the State of Nevada, Mr.[Secretary of the Interior, Bruce] Babbitt¹⁶ and his plan. It's all tied together. Everything. It's taming the West, I guess, and they're going to ruin it.

Seney: Tell me about some of the details about the contact between the county and T-C-I-D, how they work together.

Schank: Well, we've always one of our board members appointed to be the liaison with the T-C-I-D to meet with them on a regular basis. Mr. Reagan is the one I appointed. I purposely appointed him because I would be taken as the wrong person if I did [it]. I work with them because I *am* a farmer.

Seney: Mr. Reagan is the Ford dealer?

16. Bruce Babbitt served as Governor of the state of Arizona from 1978 to 1987, and was Secretary of the Interior under the Clinton Administration from 1993-2001.

Schank: No, Mr. Reagan used to be . . .

Seney: Oh, he's the school person?

Road Commission

Schank: No, no, Mr. Carter is. Mr. Reagan was personnel man out at the base and he retired from that job. He was chief man, over all the civilian employees. And he come up through the ranks, and I knew he would be a man that would learn and he has learned and he appreciates agriculture just as much as I do in this community—and I think Mr. Carter has learned it too—but I mean it's been a learning process, but he has met with them. And in so doing—he was Road Commissioner and he drew up with the Bureau of Reclamation—the county has never had a cooperative agreement on our roads here in the county, which a good share of our county roads are on easements of the Bureau of Reclamation, because what's the logical place to put a road?, it's along a canal or along, you know, the property lines or along ditches and stuff. So many of our county roads are on these, and we didn't have this cooperative agreement. It had been eighty-some years just operating informally. And so we formally got an agreement and had marked out all the roads that were county, before we improved these roads, that are county maintained and are county

roads. And one that we're having a fight with one of the community members, Butch Christie [phonetic spelling], right now, is over one of these roads. And I guess we're going to get to test the law pretty quick.

Seney: What's the squabble here?

Schank: The squabble is, it's a family squabble out there. (laughter)

Seney: They're the worst kind.

Schank: Mr. Christie, Butch Christie is located out on the end of South Allen Road. It's been a T-C-I-D easement road, however, it was used for a schoolhouse. In fact, Mr. Christie's house was a schoolhouse at one time for the Island District. School buses have used that road, typically, over the years.

Well he wrote Bureau of Reclamation and Mr. Ed Solbos¹⁷ wrote him a letter back and told him he could put a gate at the end of that road.

17. Edward Solbos participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Edward Solbos, *Oral History Interview*, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation Oral History Interview conducted by Donald B. Seney, edited by Donald B. Seney and desktop published by Andrew H. Gahan, historian, Bureau of Reclamation, 2017, /www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html.

So he took Mr.Solbos at his word and put a gate at the end and of course the residents living along that road were very upset. We, as a county, allowed a development by Mr. Christie's brother-in-law, and his brother-in-law and him do not get along, evidently and he didn't want any development out around his place. But (laughter) Mr.[first name] McCCasey [phonetic spelling], his brother-in-law was doing the developing and he sold lots out there, and of course there's been some mobile homes put in.

Seney: Oh, no! And now these people come wanting to get through the gate, and it locked.

Schank: Now there is a gate. Well, the gate is blocking the way. Of course the Sheriff's Department immediately removed it upon notice of the gate going up. Once again, it's a legal battle and we're not lawyers and we're smart enough we want to stay out of it, other than we support keeping Allen Road open at any means—there was a motion come out to that effect—because Allen Road, we just completed a paving project, if you drive out on Allen Road, that was just done a year ago, that was ten years in the making, getting the agreements with BoR [Bureau of Reclamation] and the right-of-ways secured to widen that road.

Seney: So your view is, you've got a deal with the

Bureau of Reclamation to keep that open as a road.

Schank: Yeah, that we work with them, and when we want to improve a road we submit the plans, they go through all the government agencies, environmental stuff and all. But this road, on the end of it, has not been developed. When I sign a parcel map, it says on that parcel map that the County assumes no responsibility for the roads. It's a disclaimer, but it's on every parcel map that I've ever signed.

Seney: And you signed them as Chairman of the Commission?

Schank: I sign them as Chairman of the Board. Well, they're saying that that says right there that we don't resume responsibility. But if I-80 is on the parcel map, happens to be, certainly we're not going to close I-80 (laughter) or any other road. (laughter) But I mean, that disclaimer is on every parcel map. The last commission meeting they were into, they went away mumbling with their attorney. They have a high-powered attorney out of Reno that's handling it. We told them we'd welcome them going on to court with it if they want to pursue it that far. But we as a county won't push it; they'll have to push us into court, and then we'll defend it. Probably the

federal court, I don't know.

Seney: This would be Mr. Christie's lawyer?

Schank: Yeah, Mr. Christie's lawyer, with his other guys out there that are with him. But we think we have a sound case. The thing we worry about, if we don't fight it, where does that put us on all the other roads in the county?

Reclamation Road Easements

Seney: What percentage of your roads are some miles or are in category.

Schank: Well, we have 600 miles, I think, of county roads. We only maintain a certain portion and we haven't been taking on new roads unless they're paved and up to our standards.

Seney: How many of them are on these BoR easements, do you think?

Schank: I would just guess, but I'd say fifty percent or better of them are.

Seney: So you've got a problem here.

Schank: Well, we thought we'd resolved the problem three or four years ago when we signed this contract with the BoR.

- Seney: I see. But, in other words, you've got your roads on the Bureau of Reclamation easement.
- Schank: Yes, and any new roads, though, that developers come in with, we're insistent that they are not on an easement. So we're remedying any additional [problems of this sort]. But some of these that already exist, what do you do? I mean, we don't want to go chop up a place just to put a road in that's already there.
- Seney: So what's the county's relationship, here you've got a road next to one of the canals or ditches and that's actually on Bureau of Reclamation property. It's been there for years.
- Schank: Well, we have to submit our plans from our engineers, working in conjunction with T-C-I-D engineers. It used to be pretty simple, we just worked with T-C-I-D, and they represented Bureau of Reclamation. Now all the plans *do* go to their head offices, the Bureau of Reclamation offices.
- Seney: Back to Denver even?
- Schank: No, Sacramento. The Road Commissioner could give you a little closer [picture], because what we do, we find, to be experts or to even become pretend experts, that each of us

specialize. That's why I say we've left, like Mr. Reagan has been Road Commissioner the entire time he's been in, rather than jumping jobs every year. So, next year when I'm gone they may change some of them. They'll have a new commissioner; they may put him in the jobs I have. But I look for Mr. Reagan to be Chairman. He is Vice Chairman. He is State Chairman of our county organization. He's on a national committee of the Land Steering Committee, and I've been on the Ag Steering Committee nationally. We find it's very helpful to be [on these committees].

Seney: The National County Commissioners Association?

Federal Relationships with County Commissions

Schank: Yeah, the National County Commissioners Association. We find that these problems exist all over, the federal government doing these little capers, even back in New Hampshire and Connecticut. The commissions are real concerned about the federal government overstepping their bounds in operation of county governments, especially in wiping agriculture out of them. They're doing this even in Eastern areas; they're ruining their agriculture bases by these supposed Endangered Species Acts and not letting us be involved in all this.

We should be involved in everything that goes on in our counties. And that's where I've been at odds with Senator Reid. He has not come and asked me as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, and I thought out of professional courtesy he should. I mean, come to the county here, "How is this going to affect your county?" He doesn't even *care*. I mean, he didn't; he does now. He does now because we've got his attention. We finally got his attention. I've talked to him in private, I've talked to him and he knows that we're concerned. I've taken him around on tours through the valley and he didn't even know what alfalfa hay was.

P.L. 101-618

And I'm sure he turned everything over to Mr. Wayne Mehl,¹⁸ who was his expert, to write this Negotiated Settlement, and then it went

18. Wayne Mehl participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Wayne E Mehl,, *Oral History Interview*, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation oral history interview conducted by Donald B. Seney, edited by Donald B. Seney and further edited and desktop published by Brit Allan Storey, senior historian, Bureau of Reclamation, 2013, [/www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html](http://www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html).

back to [Senator] Bill Bradley¹⁹. I've met Bill Bradley and Tom Jensen²⁰ was his author, environmentalist, that wrote all this up, their top environmentalist.

This bill came out of Senator Reid's, tacked onto another bill in the midnight hour. Arm-twisting went on. Actually we met with senators from all the other Western states when I was back there and they said they'd *love* to author this bill, that it needed to be done, but not the way it was being done, that it was going to come back to haunt us and everyone in the way it was written and the way it was done and all. Of course, we've had to go to other senators.

Seney: This is Public Law 101-618?

Schank: Yeah, the 101, it come out, we supported the Indians here in getting their settlement and all.

Seney: You mean the Fallon Indians?

Schank: The Fallon Indian Tribe, they'd had no

19. Senator Bill Bradley served the state of New Jersey in the U.S. Senate from 1979-1997.

20. Thomas Jensen participated in Reclamation's Newlands Series oral history project. See, Thomas Jensen, *Oral History Interview*, Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation Oral History Interview conducted by Donald B. Seney, edited by Donald B. Seney and desktop published by Brit Allan Storey, senior historian, Bureau of Reclamation, 2019, www.usbr.gov/history/oralhist.html.

settlement whatsoever. So we were instrumental in helping them stay together and get their forty-some million [dollars] to match their brothers over at Pyramid. They're all related, though, and this is what tears them up and us up: those people are related. I went to school with a lot of Indian kids. I didn't know they were any different than us. Some of them had been student body presidents and all. Of course, most of them, it's sad: the government lures them back to the reservation with all their free programs. It's sad, really. Until they're let stand on their own feet and be a part of the nation, they're going to have these problems: whether it's gambling on the reservations or what it is, it's sad what they're doing to the Indians. I mean, the Indians should be self-sufficient, and they should have been. They should have been on equal footing with anyone else: helped, maybe, getting started and going and all. I'm just even afraid of the programs now that Mr. Inouye [Daniel Inouye, Hawaii],²¹ it was Senator Inouye that got this through for them, on the midnight hour, with the tacked-on Negotiated Settlement, with the tacked-on restoration of the wetlands. All that was tacked onto this bill of Senator Inouye's to give these Indians here the \$43million or whatever it was

21. Senator Daniel Inouye served the state of Hawaii in the U.S. Senate from 1963 to 2012.

that they were entitled to. All this was tacked on. And of course they had written in that every detail: it says that we're bad people, and all the rest in there; it says that we owe them back water and this sort of thing, and none of this has ever been proven. We had a federal watermaster that controlled [the flow of water to the Newlands Project] and recoupment²² and all this stuff.

Recoupment

Seney: You're talking about the recoupment issue with the Pyramid Lake Indians?

Schank: Pyramid Lake and all. I mean, they got written in that bill everything they ever wanted, and they have us down and now they're stomping us

22. United States Department of Justice, "Truckee Carson Litigation," The United States pursued recoupment of the diversions made by the District in violation of the operating criteria in effect from 1973 until 1987. Following a four week bench trial in 2002, the district court issued judgment against the District and directed it to repay the Truckee River 197,152 acre feet of water over twenty years. In 2010, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the district court's ruling on liability, but remanded to the district court to recalculate the amount of water that the District was required to repay without adjustments that had lowered the amount under the original judgment. Remand proceedings, to recalculate the amount of water owed to the Truckee River, are pending. The case represented one of the first uses of a restitutionary remedy in the context of water rights and federal Indian trust responsibilities." <https://www.justice.gov/enrd/project-water-rights>. (Accessed 4/2017)

into the ground just as far as they can. They don't go back and say, "We've been paid off several times for the water." They don't want to say that because they've reaped millions of dollars off of it. And the \$10million, years ago, paid them off. They sold their water rights, they sold it. Now they're getting it back; we give them back everything that we don't need. But we'd like some to survive too. I was amused at an article in the paper saying how their fish industry brought in [at least] \$400,000 each year. I don't know how many millions the federal government put into it. Our project's bringing back \$80million for the economy, plus we're paying taxes and we're having to fight this with our money, we're not fighting it with tax money.

Seney: Let me go back to something else you said. When Senator Reid came around, you said you showed him around, do you feel like you made an impression on him when you showed him around?

Reid's Relationship with the Project

Schank: No, not at the time. He came and went to church with me, he come and took him to church.

Seney: Is he a Mormon as well?

Schank: Yes, he's a Church member as well. And it's hard on the judge here, who happens to be a real good Catholic, he keeps asking me if the Church hasn't excommunicated him. (laughter)

Seney: When you say you got Senator Reid's attention, what did you mean by that?

Schank: Well, actually, we've got it now, but we *haven't* had it. We didn't at *that* time, it was probably five or six years ago. It was about the time we were having the hospital trouble and he came and, well, it was probably near election time. No, he went on as senator eight years ago; eight years ago he would have been campaigning [at] the same time I was. I put up his signs; I supported him. I didn't realize that you couldn't really talk to him and that he wouldn't be consulting with me. Governor [Bob] Miller come around—[he] wasn't governor [at the time], he was running for lieutenant governor—set right on the couch there and visited with me two hours. I got to become real good friends with the now-Governor Miller. He was running for lieutenant governor and come down—he was out to a Boy's State to talk to them—and he says he'd heard he needed to meet me, I was running for office. We become good friends, still are good friends, I'm *real* good friends. But I find out

that Senator Reid carries a lot of clout. I mean, I could go to the governor with problems, but unless Senator Reid okays them on some of this stuff that's affecting Nevada, that senators do have a strong hold on the political reins in Nevada.

Seney: So the governor would kind of check with Senator Reid?

Looked to Slow Down the Negotiated Settlement Bill

Schank: Well, this is it. We wanted to kind of slow things down and hold things off there on that Negotiated Settlement until certain things were done. Senator Reid said we were trying to kill his legislation. We never did try to kill it, as a county, but we wanted to get it right so it was fair to everybody. We didn't want all these unfair things in the bill that are in there. I mean, they make it law, and like I say, the recoupment's law. I mean (sighs), you're guilty.(laughs)

Seney: I take it, like most of the others in the valley, the farmers, you don't go along with the recoupment idea.

Schank: I don't go along with a lot of this stuff, that we're "guilty" of all this. Because I think we

worked our heart out here to do the best we can with what we have.

Seney: Are you optimistic about the future?

Future of the Project

Schank: I've always been optimistic. I've never been pessimistic.

Seney: Do you think the project's going to survive?

Schank: Oh, I think so, I think it will. I think it will be sized down somewhat. I hope it doesn't get sized down to what some of the federal people want to size it down [to], but I think they've got to leave it viable. I think it needs to at least be 50,000 acres or better here to be a viable community of agriculture. And I think if they make it so that the agriculture can be moved around as the city grows, it could grow on out.

Seney: You mean have water-right transfers?

Schank: Yeah, with water-right transfers onto good ground. There's lots of good ground here. I've seen ground that I've reclaimed that wouldn't grow anything, that grows hay like this now. (Seney: You're pointing out at a nice field of hay here.) That is as good a field as you'll see anyplace.

- Seney: You know, as we look out, I see a lot of butterflies and I see it's turning purple.
- Schank: Well, actually, that's a sand streak there. No, the farmers, when they built their original ditches they built them on the sand streaks. I guess this is good and bad: I concreted it through here so that I didn't lose all that water through the sand streak. That was my reasoning on that, and with the Soil Conservations, they said, "Concrete those ditches." They found [that] to get a good concrete ditch it needs to be in a sandy area, even if they haul sand in, artificially.
- Seney: So it'll shift a little.
- Schank: So it will shift. Otherwise they break up too bad with the change of temperatures and the soil movement and all.
- Seney: So this turns out to be a good place to put a concrete ditch.
- Schank: It turned [out to be] a good place. It was put in, at today's standards, very poorly. I keep hearing the government subsidizes us farmers so much. I've been trying to figure out where all these subsidies are. I haven't been able to receive too many. The only thing I did receive on was

concrete ditches. They would participate in a cost-share program on them. This ditch cost the sum total of \$3,000 to put in over two thousand feet. It was over a half-mile of ditch, and the total cost of the ditch was \$3,000 of which the government had participated [with] \$1,500. I put in a lot of hand labor, and putting in the takeouts and all, and I've improved it as I've gone along. It was put in with a slip form, and it was put in, I heard, four-and-a-half bag mix. Well, they don't allow that mix to go [anymore]. And inch-and-a-half lining; now they require thicker linings and all. But I've found that the old guys weren't all that bad in figuring these things out: that kind of concrete was a little more elastic. And it's held up. I've had to do some work, but for being over thirty years old and going on forty [It doing alright]. I guess it is forty years old right now, and it's doing all right. I would like to extend it and put a bigger ditch in and irrigate the complete length of the place. But it wouldn't make, I don't think, any more crop production. It may save a little bit of water, but not much.

Agriculture Remains Important

Seney: Do you think you're still going to be farming here, or Ernie will be, in twenty, twenty-five years?

Schank: Oh, I kind of think so. I honestly do. The city will grow some out this way. But we're in airport zones and all and they don't want too many houses out in this [area]. And they need this area for a good environment. This is a where Reno made a big mistake; Reno used to have quite a bit, Washoe Valley—or Truckee Meadows, I should call it—used to have quite a lot of farms in there. They still have some. If they would have built their homes up around and left a few of the farms, they would not find the L-A [Los Angeles] smog area that they have now. As you drop in there's a smog area you drop into. And I think they've found if they keep agriculture in, in areas, it's not all that bad, and we're looking at ways now, of zoning and things of permanently putting agriculture in here. We could do it, say, by cluster development: a farmer, say, is in some financial bind; he would be allowed to put in a certain number of homes in a poorer part of his farm area, put in right to, pretty much, city standards, their subdivision standards, cluster them all together. But in so doing he would save the rest of his ranch. The good that's in farm, and it would permanently be put into green belt and put into an area that would permanently have to be agriculture. The only way it could ever be removed would be by the city growing that far and annexing them. But otherwise they would

have these green spots and it would keep this valley the way it is and preserve some of the heritage, some of the uniqueness of this valley.

Seney: Are you optimistic about these upcoming negotiations that are about to begin?

Upcoming Negotiations

Schank: I'm very optimistic on them. I'm very optimistic. The only pessimistic part is, Mr. Pelcyger is going to be sitting right at the table. If it was laymen sitting down talking, but a guy that has made the millions that he has, doing what he's doing, he's not about to give that up. He'd like this to go on for years, I mean, perpetuate it. That's their line of thinking, I mean that's his line of thinking and he converts the people that he's employed by to go by the same. I'm confident we could solve these issues if we could sit down with their tribal leaders and stuff and all. Just to show: the T-C-I-D sponsored a trip and invited them all down to come. Mr. Pelcyger did not want them to come. He said, "Don't." He doesn't want them to even come and see this area. He doesn't want to see what we're doing. There was a few come, I think there was three or four that did come, a couple from our reservation here and a couple from the other reservation. They held one, I've been and seen their fish stuff, I've been

there. I went with Mr. Bettenberg and the task force when they went over the entire area. And the Indian people did invite the T-C-I-D, and my son, the ones that were working, so they went up and went over Pyramid Lake with what they're doing, went over their fish hatcheries and all this sort of thing, and what they're about and all, and sat down and ate with them and that's what they wanted to do here. But they don't, I mean, I think the people themselves would, but there's about—I shouldn't say—there's about fifty percent up there. They're split—and I know they figured this valley, that we were going to fight amongst ourselves. They said, "The farmers never get along on anything, the farmer's this and that," and they were going to come in and step in and just take us over. Well, they find out we're not. And I think if they would see the true light they would join in with the thing and settle this thing, get it settled once and for all so that we don't have to go to court. We don't like being in court anymore than anyone else does.

Seney: Let me thank you, Mr. Schank, because we're about out of time. I really appreciate your contributing to the project and giving us your thoughts and your feelings on it. It's exactly what we want to hear.

Schank: The Bureau of Reclamation, I've watched them change from, now they use satellites and stuff to spy on us. I think that's where they're using the subsidy they're saying they're spending all this money in trying to dismantle us now. Millions.

END SIDE 2, TAPE 2. AUGUST 22, 1994.
END OF INTERVIEW.